

## CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method for searching identifying data, comprising:
  - (a) compiling a master library of data from users of a network; and
  - (b) determining proximity of an independent library to a sub-library within said master library.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said master library includes a collection of individual user libraries.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein said user libraries are a collection of lists of said identifying data.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining proximity includes comparing a list of names within said libraries that are common within a predetermined factor.
5. The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of assigning a rank to a sub-library based upon a criterion.
- 15 6. The method of claim 5, wherein said criteria is selected from the group consisting of: frequency of appearance in said master library, intensity of use by third parties, cost of use, ease of use, difficulty of use, and frequency of occurrence in selected portions of said master library.
7. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of assigning a score to said identifying data based upon proximity of said rank of identifying data in said sub-library to said lists of identifying data in said master library.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said score is based upon a quantity of redundancy between said scoring library and said sub-library.
9. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of viewing sub-libraries within said master library.
- 5 10. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of searching for said sub-library with a common subject matter to said independent library.
11. A system to search data, comprising:
  - a master library compiled from users of a network; and
  - a manager to determine a proximity of an independent library to a sub-library within the master library.
12. The system of claim 11, wherein said master library comprises a collection of individual user libraries.
13. The system of claim 12, wherein said user libraries are a collection of lists of said identifying data.
14. The system of claim 13, further comprising a procedure to rank to a sub-library based upon a criterion.
15. The system of claim 14, wherein said criterion is selected from the group consisting of: frequency of appearance in said master library, intensity of use by third parties, cost of use, ease of use, difficulty of use, and frequency of occurrence in selected portions of the master library.

20

16. The system of claim 14, further comprising a score assigned to said identifying data based upon proximity of said rank of identifying data in said sub-library to said lists of identifying data in said master library.
17. The system of claim 16, wherein said score is based upon repetition between a score library and said sub-library.  
5
18. An article comprising:
  - a computer-readable signal bearing medium;
  - a master library compiled from users of a network; and
  - means in the medium for determining proximity of an independent library to a sub-library within said master library.  
10
19. The article of claim 18, wherein the medium is selected from the group consisting of: a recordable data storage medium and a modulated carrier signal.
20. The article of claim 18, wherein said proximity determining means compiles names in said libraries that are common.
21. The article of claim 18, further comprising assigning a rank to a sub-library based upon a criterion.  
15
22. The article of claim 21, further comprising assigning a score to identifying data within said libraries based upon proximity of a rank factor of identifying data in said sub-library to a list of identifying data in said master library.